

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended): A method for accessing information in an
2 information store in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:
3 receiving an access request comprising a request for a first type of information,
4 wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first information
5 contained in said information store;
6 replacing said request for a first type of information with a modified request for a
7 first type of information, wherein said modified request ~~being is~~ based on said access policy; and
8 accessing said information store to produce a result in response to said access
9 request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein each row of information
10 includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of
11 said first information depending-modified request produces either a masked value or said first
12 information, based on said access policy.

BI 1 2. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said modified
2 request includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an
3 instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first
4 information.

1 3. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said accessing includes
2 executing said mask function to produce either said masked value or said first information.

1 4. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including modifying
2 said access request to include a filter function, said filter function effective for eliminating
3 portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance with said access policy.

1 5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information
2 store is a relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1 6. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information
2 store is a relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result~~
3 ~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said method further including incorporating a filter
4 function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said
5 access policy.

1 7. (Currently amended): In a relational database, a method for accessing
2 information in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:

3 providing at least one query comprising a SELECT statement, said SELECT
4 statement comprising one or more column references, each column reference identifying a
5 specific column in said relational database;

6 replacing at least one of said one or more column references with a mask function
7 to produce a modified query; and

8 producing a query result in response to said modified query comprising one or
9 more rows of information;

10 wherein some rows of information comprise entirely of information from said
11 relational database, and other rows of information comprise information from said relational
12 database and a mask value, depending on said access policy.

13 ~~wherein said query result includes, for said at least one of said one or more~~
14 ~~column references, either mask values or information from said relational database, based on~~
15 ~~said access policy.~~

1 8. (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein said at least one query further
2 comprises a WHERE clause, said method further including modifying said WHERE clause to
3 produce a modified WHERE clause which includes a filter function, said filter function
4 producing one of two logical values, said modified WHERE clause effective for deleting a row
5 from said query result based on a value produced by said filter function.

1 9. (Currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein said relational
2 database ~~in~~is provided in a database server; said step of providing includes receiving said at least
3 one query at a client system; and said step of producing includes transmitting said modified
4 query to said database server.

1 10. (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is
2 performed at said client system.

1 11. (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is
2 performed at said database server.

B1
1 12. (Currently amended): A computer-based information retrieval system
2 comprising:
3 computer memory having computer readable program code embodied therein for
4 accessing an information store in accordance with an access policy, said computer readable
5 program code comprising:
6 first code configured to receive an access request for a first type of
7 information, wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first
8 information;
9 second code configured to replace said request for a first type of
10 information with a modified request for a first type of information, wherein said modified
11 request ~~being~~is based on said access policy; and
12 third code configured to access said information store to produce a result
13 in response to said access request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein

14 each row of information includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in
15 place of an instance of said first information depending, based on said access policy.

1 13. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including fourth
2 code configured to modify said access request to include a filter function, said filter function
3 effective for eliminating portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance
4 with said access policy.

1 14. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a
2 relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1 15. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a
2 relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result comprising one~~
3 ~~or more rows of information~~, said second code further configured to incorporate a filter function
4 in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said access
5 policy.

1 16. (Original): The system of claim 12 further including a client computer
2 system and a server computer system, said client computer system comprising a portion of said
3 computer memory embodying said first and second codes, said server computer system
4 comprising another portion of said computer memory embodying said third code.

1 17. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 wherein said database
2 server is a relational database server, said request for a first type of information comprises a
3 SELECT statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said
4 modified request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references
5 with a mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational
6 database.

1 18. (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 wherein said third code
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.

1 19. (Currently amended): The system of claim 16 wherein said database
2 server is a relational database server, said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result~~
3 ~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said second code further configured to incorporate
4 a filter function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on
5 said access policy.

1 20. (Currently amended): The system of claim 19 wherein said third code
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.
